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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# 23

APPLICANT(s): Schwartz et al.

SERIAL NO.: 08/973,293 ART UNIT: 2161

FILING DATE: December 1, 1997 EXAMINER: Cosimano, E.

TITLE: SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

ATTORNEY

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Commissioner of Patents  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1)/(e)(1))

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) before the mailing date of any of a final action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. While a notice of allowance was mailed on April 4, 2001, a notice of withdrawal from issue under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(b)(3) was mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 21, 2001.

This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by the statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from the foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The above-identified patent application has a counter part foreign patent application Japanese patent application No.



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534736/97. Applicant's attorney encloses a copy of the translated Search Report issued for the counter part foreign application. The Search Report cites several references, listed below, which were provided with the Search Report, and are being disclosed to the Patent and Trademark Office as information that may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application.

JP63015386  
JP1309195  
JP63015387  
U.S. Patent No. 5,085,470  
JP62060084  
JP4016394  
JP6191120

Copies of abstracts for these references and a copy of the cited U.S. patent, are enclosed together with a Form PTO- 1449 for the Examiner's use.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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